

Recovery Plan Action Status

Plan Name: Gopher Tortoise

Plan Status: Final

Plan Date: 26-Dec-90

Lead Agency: USFWS

Lead Office: Mississippi Ecological Services Field Office

(601)
965-4900)

Species	Action Priority #	Action #	Action Description	Action Status	Est. Initiation Date	Est. Completion Date	Responsible Parties	Work Type	Labor Type	Action Comments
Gopher tortoise (Gopherus polyphemus)	2	1.1.1	Camp Shelby survey	Ongoing Current	Prior to FY 1995	FY 2025	U.S. Forest Service, Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks , Fish and Wildlife Enhancement	Research: Population Surveys	Contract, Graduate Student, Internal Administrative, Internal Field Assistance, Internal Technical Assistance, Species Expert, Volunteer	Other agencies responsibilities will be a cooperative nature, possibly on projects funded under a Service contract. In some cases contracts may be let to private individuals. The Army National Guard and USFS are obligated to certain actions through section 7 of the Act.
Gopher tortoise (Gopherus polyphemus)	2	1.1.2	DeSoto National Forest survey	Ongoing Current	Prior to FY 1995	FY 2025	U.S. Forest Service, Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks , Fish and Wildlife Enhancement	Research: Population Surveys	Contract, Graduate Student, Internal Administrative, Internal Field Assistance, Internal Technical Assistance, Species Expert, Volunteer	Other agencies responsibilities will be a cooperative nature, possibly on projects funded under a Service contract. In some cases contracts may be let to private individuals. The Army National Guard and USFS are obligated to certain actions through section 7 of the Act.
Gopher tortoise (Gopherus polyphemus)	2	1.1.3	State/School lands survey	Partially Complete	Prior to FY 1995	FY 2025	U.S. Forest Service, Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks , Fish and Wildlife Enhancement	Research: Population Surveys	Contract, Graduate Student, Internal Administrative, Internal Field Assistance, Internal Technical Assistance, Species Expert, Volunteer	Other agencies responsibilities will be a cooperative nature, possibly on projects funded under a Service contract. In some cases contracts may be let to private individuals. The Army National Guard and USFS are obligated to certain actions through section 7 of the Act.

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Gopher tortoise (Gopherus polyphemus)	2	1.2	Population survey/entire population	Not Started			U.S. Forest Service, Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks , Fish and Wildlife Enhancement	Research: Population Surveys	Contract, Graduate Student, Internal Administrative, Internal Field Assistance, Internal Technical Assistance, Species Expert, Volunteer	Repeat every 5 years
Gopher tortoise (Gopherus polyphemus)	2	1.2.1	Assess rangewide status	Ongoing Current	Prior to FY 1995	FY 2025	U.S. Forest Service, Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks , Fish and Wildlife Enhancement	Research: General, Research: Habitat Status, Research: Population Surveys	Contract, Graduate Student, Internal Administrative, Internal Field Assistance, Internal Technical Assistance, Species Expert, Volunteer	Repeat every 5 years; Status assessment currently being conducted as part of eastern listing package.
Gopher tortoise (Gopherus polyphemus)	1	2	Protection and management of publicly owned habitat	Ongoing Current	Prior to FY 1995	FY 2025	U.S. Forest Service, Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks , Fish and Wildlife Enhancement	Management, Management: Habitat Maintenance and Manipulation, Other: Law Enforcement	Contract, Graduate Student, Internal Administrative, Internal Field Assistance, Internal Technical Assistance, Species Expert, Volunteer	Other agencies responsibilities will be a cooperative nature, possibly on projects funded under a Service contract. In some cases contracts may be let to private individuals. The Army National Guard and USFS are obligated to certain actions through section 7 of the Act.
Gopher tortoise (Gopherus polyphemus)	3	3	Protection and management of private lands	Ongoing Current	Prior to FY 1995	FY 2015	U.S. Forest Service, Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks , Fish and Wildlife Enhancement	Acquisition: Easement	Internal Administrative, Internal Field Assistance, Internal Technical Assistance	NRCS HFRP program implemented 2008
Gopher tortoise (Gopherus polyphemus)	3	3.2	Cooperative agreements	Planned	FY 2008	FY 2025	U.S. Forest Service, Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks , Fish and Wildlife Enhancement	Work type not yet selected	Internal Administrative, Internal Field Assistance, Internal Technical Assistance	Costs to be determined
Gopher tortoise (Gopherus polyphemus)	3	3.3	Easements/donations	Ongoing Current	Prior to FY 1995	FY 2015	U.S. Forest Service, Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks , Fish and Wildlife Enhancement	Acquisition: Easement	Internal Administrative, Internal Field Assistance, Internal Technical Assistance	Costs to be determined

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Gopher tortoise (Gopherus polyphemus)	3	3.4	Rewards	Ongoing Current	Prior to FY 1995	FY 2025	U.S. Forest Service, Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks , Fish and Wildlife Enhancement	Other	Internal Administrative, Internal Field Assistance, Internal Technical Assistance	Costs to be determined
Gopher tortoise (Gopherus polyphemus)	2	4	Law enforcement strategy	Ongoing Current	Prior to FY 1995	FY 2025	U.S. Forest Service, Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks , Fish and Wildlife Enhancement	Other: Law Enforcement	Internal Administrative, Internal Field Assistance, Internal Technical Assistance	continuous
Gopher tortoise (Gopherus polyphemus)	3	5	Research population viability	Ongoing Current	Prior to FY 1995	FY 2015	U.S. Forest Service, University , Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks , Fish and Wildlife Enhancement	Research: Other Information	Contract, Graduate Student, Internal Administrative, Internal Field Assistance, Internal Technical Assistance, Species Expert, Volunteer	Auburn - breeding distance work, to be published 2008?; USM egg hatching study, publish 2009? Habitat analysis/fire regime studies as relates to nutrient availability of vegetation and hatching viability initiated in 2011
Gopher tortoise (Gopherus polyphemus)	3	6	Research genetics	Ongoing Current	FY 2007	FY 2010	University , Fish and Wildlife Enhancement	Research	Graduate Student	population genetic studies at University of New Orleans and University of Southern MS, to be published 2009? and 2010?
Gopher tortoise (Gopherus polyphemus)	3	7	Telemetry studies	Ongoing Current	FY 1995 - FY 1999	FY 2015	U.S. Forest Service, University , Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks , Alabama Department of Natural Resources	Research: Other Information	Contract, Graduate Student, Internal Administrative, Internal Field Assistance, Internal Technical Assistance, Species Expert, Volunteer	Telemetry studies ongoing on Camp Shelby Training Base (U.S. Forest Service land) in MS

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Gopher tortoise (Gopherus polyphemus)	3	8	Relocate reproductively isolated tortoises	Ongoing Current	FY 2010		U.S. Forest Service, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries , Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks , Fish and Wildlife Enhancement, Alabama Department of Natural Resources	Research: Other Information	Contract, Graduate Student, Internal Administrative, Internal Field Assistance, Internal Technical Assistance, Species Expert, Volunteer	State agencies; MDWFP through section 6 has been and will continue to relocate "waif" and reproductively isolated tortoises. For FY'10, we are setting up a streamlined way to test those tortoises for URTD.